

DRAFT
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
Section 10 Rivers and Harbors Act Permit Application
Action ID NAE-2004-338-1 (formerly # 200102913)
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EOEA File #12643)
DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONAL IMPACT REVIEW (JR #20084)
FOR THE
CAPE WIND ENERGY PROJECT
NANTUCKET SOUND, MASSACHUSETTS

Lead agency: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, 696 Virginia Road, Concord, Massachusetts 01742

Cooperating agencies: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Federal Aviation Administration, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Department of Commerce, National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, Minerals Management Service, National Park Service, Cape Cod Commission, Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management, Massachusetts Historical Commission, Massachusetts Military Reservation, Nantucket Planning & Economic Development Commission, and the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah)

Abstract: In November 2001, with a revision in June 2004, Cape Wind Associates, LLC (the Applicant) filed a permit application with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 to construct and operate 130 wind turbine generators on Horseshoe Shoal in Nantucket Sound off the coast of Massachusetts. The power will be transmitted to shore via a submarine cable system consisting of two 115 kilovolt (kV) lines to a landfall site in Yarmouth, Massachusetts, where it will interconnect with an underground cable system, and then with the existing NSTAR Electric Barnstable Switching Station for distribution through the existing power grid. The Corps determined that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required for this proposed project under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to facilitate its review under Section 10 jurisdiction in order to evaluate and decide whether to issue or deny the permit. This document has also been prepared to fulfill review requirements under the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA). The preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) pursuant to 301 CMR 11.03(7)(b)(4) is required because the Project involves the construction of a new electric transmission line greater than one mile in length with a capacity of 69 or more kV. MEPA jurisdiction applies to the upland and submarine cable system components in Nantucket Sound out to the mapped 3-mile state territorial sea boundary. Additionally, the document includes items identified by the Cape Cod Commission for its review under Developments of Regional Impact (DRI) that present regional issues or potential impacts to the resources of Cape Cod.

This Draft EIS/EIR is being circulated for a 60 day review and comment period. Comments may be sent to: Colonel Thomas L. Koning, District Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 696 Virginia Rd., Concord, Massachusetts 01742. Comments may also be sent by FAX to: 978-318-8303 or by e-mail to: wind.energy@usace.army.mil. For additional information, please contact Ms. Karen Adams, New England District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 696 Virginia Rd, Concord, MA 01742, telephone number (978) 318-8335.